

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 MCT-01 COME-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01 IO-13
ACDA-07 /090 W

-----061312Z 082901 /46

R 061115Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6229

INFO AMEMBASSY MADRID

C O N F I D E N T I A L ALGIERS 0885

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SP, AG

SUBJECT: CUBILLO AGAIN

REF: MADRID 2395

1. SPANISH AMBASSADOR ALGIERS MANUECO CALLED ON FOREIGN
MINISTRY SECYGN BENHABYLES APRIL 2. MOHANED ABERKANE,
CHEIF OF NORTH AMERICAN AND WESTERN EUROPEAN AFFAIRS AT
FOREIGN MINISTRY, TOLD ME THAT MANUECO HAD TELEPHONED
MINISTRY EARLIER MORNING APRIL 2 DEMANDING EXTRAORDINARY
APPOINTMENT WITH BOUTEFLIKA. ABERKANE SAID THAT "BOUTEFLIKA
BEING BUSY AT PRESIDENCY", MANUECO HAD TO MEET WITH
BENHABYLES. (BOUTEFLIKA SEES NO ONE BUT FOREIGN MINISTERS
AND SAUDI AMBASSADOR). ABERKANE STATED THAT MANUECO
PRESENTED CALL IN CONTEXT OF FOLLOW-UP TO SPANISH FOREIGN
MINISTRY'C ALLING IN OF ALGERIAN AMBASSADOR (REFTEL).

2. IN APRIL 4 CONVERSATION WITH ME, MANUECO DISMISSED HIS
CALL ON BENHABYLES AS ONE OF SIMPLY SEEKING "CLARIFICATION"
ABOUT WHAT ALGERIANS PLANNED TO DO ABOUT CUBILLO'S
BROADCASTS ON SHORTWAVE. WHEN ASKED WHETHER HE HAD
RAISED BOMB EXPLOSION AT LAS PALMAS AND AIRCRAFT
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COLLISION HE REPLIED THAT THERE REALLY WAS NO
DIRECT LINK TO CUBILLO IN THESE MATTERS AND THAT HE
HAD JUST MENTIONED ISSUES IN PASSING AS EXAMPLE OF HOW
POPULAR EMOTIONS IN SPAIN WERE BEING AROUSED AGAINST
ALGERIA BY CONTINUED ALGERIAN SUPPORT OF CUBILLO.
WHEN ASKED WHAT RESPONSE HE HAD RECEIVED FROM
BENHABYLES, HE RESPONDED THAT HE HAD GOTTEN USUAL DOSE

OF PHILOSOPHIC RAMBING ABOUT GOA NOT BEING RESPONSIBLE
FOR CUBILLO. MANUECO TREATED AFFAIR QUITE CASUALLY.

3. ABERKANE, WITH WHOM I SPOKE WHILE MANUECO WAS
MEETING WITH BENHABYLES, CONVEYED IMPRESSION THAT
MANUECO WAS MUCH MORE AROUSED THAN MANUECO INDICATED, AND
WE TEND TO BELIEVE MANUECO GLOSSING OVER MATTER. NO
AMBASSADOR IN ALGIERS EXCEPT SAUDI REQUESTS TO MEET WITH
BOUTEFLIKA EXCEPT ON MATTERS OF GREAT IMPORTANCE AND
REQUEST IN ITSELF SUGGESTS GREATER DEGREE OF CONCERN
THAN MANUECO INDICATED. WE SUSPECT EMBASSY MADRID GETTING
STRAIGHTER STORY THAN WE ARE HERE.

4. IN MY CONVERSATION WITH ABERKANE I COMMENTED THAT TO
ME IT SEEMED IDIOTIC FOR ALGERIANS TO SUPPORT CUBILLO IN
SUCH VENTURES AS LAS PALMAS BOMBING AND THEREBY ASSUME PART
OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR 570 DEAD. ABERKANE SHRUGGED AND
SAID THAT IN ADDITION TO DESIRE TO RETALIATE FOR
MADRID ACCORD, ALGERIANS WANTED TOOL FOR USE IN
PRESSURING SPAIN. ABERKANE STATED THAT ALGERIA
FEARED MOROCCO WOULD ULTIMATELY GAIN CONTROL OF
CANARY ISLANDS AND THAT SUCH MOROCCAN EXPANSION WAS
SOMETHING ALGERIANS COULD NOT TOLERATE. HE STRESSED,
HOWEVER, THAT CUBILLO WAS AFFAIR OUT OF FOREIGN MINISTRY
HANDS AND WAS BEING HANDLED BY FLN AND PRESIDENCY (USUALLY
PRESIDENCY OMITTED FROM SUCH AN ALGERIAN ACCOUNTING).

5. IN CURIOUS ASIDE, ABERKANE NOTED THAT SPANISH
LEFTISTS ACCUSE CUBILLO OF BEING INSTRUMENT OF
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AMERICAN IMPERIALISTS, IF NOT OF CIA. IN RESPONSE TO MY
REQUEST FOR EXPLANATION OF SUCH REASONING, HE RESPONDED
THAT SPANISH LEFTISTS ARGUE THAT CANARY ISLANDS LIBERATION
MOVEMENT ACTIVITY WILL RESULT IN SPANISH GOVERNMENT'S
APPROACH TO US FOR ASSISTANCE, PRICE OF WHICH WOULD BE
NATO BASE IN LAS PALMAS. SPANISH LEFT, ACCORDING TO
ABERKANE, THEREFORE THREATENING TO WITHDRAW ITS SUPPORT
FOR ALGERIA'S POLISARIO CAUSE IF ALGERIANS DO NOT
ABANDON CUBILLO.LYNE

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